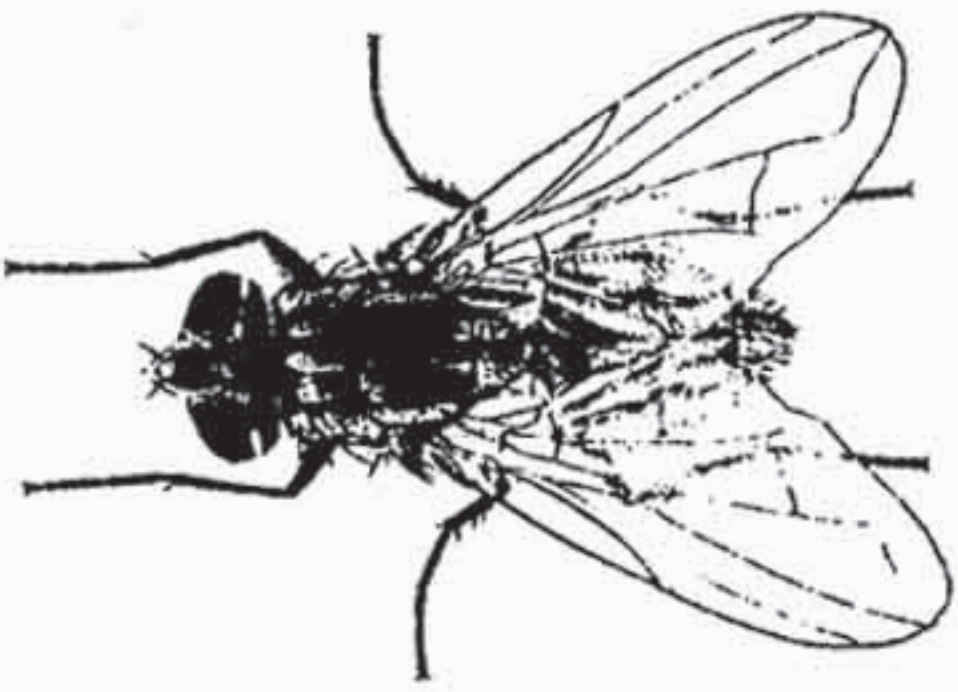
FLIES

PREVENTION & CONTROL

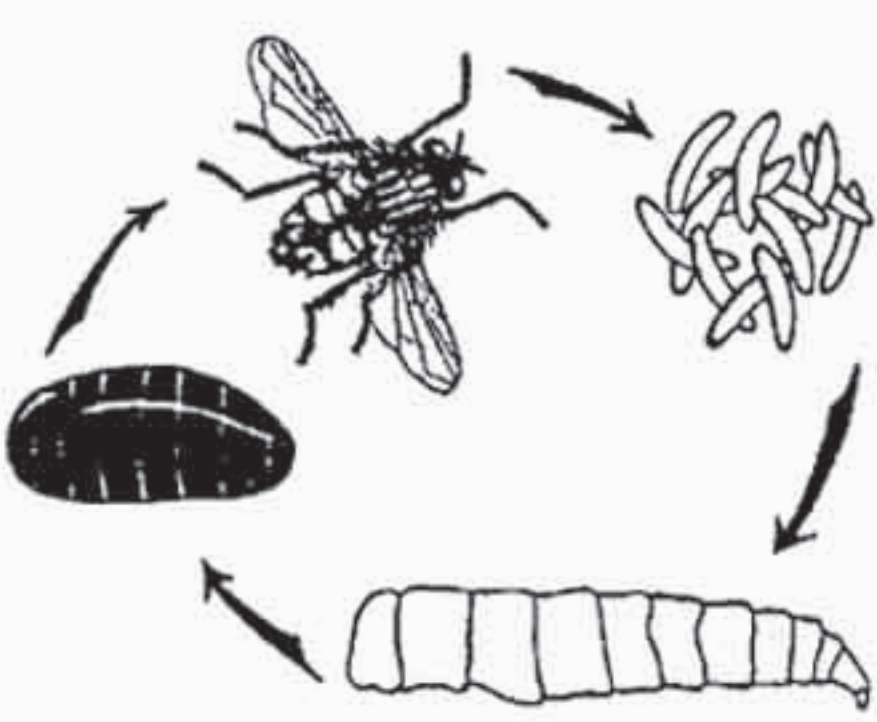


WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FILES

There are many different types of domestic flies in San Diego County. Flies can carry filth and be a nuisance. It is best to understand something about the life cycle and activities of flies in order to prevent and control them around your home.

THE LIFE CYCLE

The life cycle of the fly begins when the female lays eggs in moist organic matter. The eggs hatch into tiny larvae, called maggots, which feed on the organic material. The maggots grow rapidly and turn into the non-feeding pupae. These pupae then change into adult flies and the life cycle begins again. The life cycle may take from a week to several months to complete, depending upon the kind of fly, the time of year, and available food.



Each female fly can deposit from a few hundred to 2,000 eggs during her lifetime.

TYPES OF FLIES

House Fly

The common house fly *(Musca domestica)* is a grayish-black fly found and readily lands on human food.

In two weeks one fly may lay more than 1,000 eggs in animal excrement, garbage, kitchen refuse, piled lawn clippings, and other decomposing plant and animal matter. In warm weather, the life cycle (egg to adult) usually takes eight days. Warm or protected environments may permit fly production year-round.

Blow Fly

Blow flies are larger than common house flies. Several types are characterized by shiny, metallic colors: black, *Phormia;* blue, *Calliphora;* and green or copper, *Phaenicia.* They make a loud droning buzz and will lay eggs on exposed meat ("flyblown flesh"). The larval development of green or copper blow flies, most commonly found in garbage wastes and pet droppings, is completed in less than a week, while that of black or blue blow flies require 10 to 15 days.

Little House Fly

The little house fly *(Fannia canniculoris)* characteristically flies to-and-fro in the middle of a room. It seldom lands on human food. Maggots develop from eggs laid in well-decayed vegetable matter or in animal excrement. The life cycle requires about 24 days.